



NEWS RELEASE

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Sept. 20, 2016

Jury Convicts Pill Mill Doctor

A Rancho Palos Verdes physician charged with illegally prescribing drugs to undercover operatives was convicted late today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

The jury deliberated about two hours before finding Dr. Richard Seongjun Kim, 44, guilty of 17 felony counts of unlawfully prescribing controlled substances without a legitimate medical need to undercover operatives working with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Deputy District Attorney Emily Street of the Major Narcotics Division, who prosecuted the case, said Kim would ask the operatives to bring in prior medical charts and X-rays to justify the prescribing. On one occasion, an operative brought in a chest X-ray of a dog that was used to justify his prescriptions, prosecutors said.

Over the course of three months in 2014, the general practitioner wrote prescriptions for Norco, Xanax, Soma and Adderall without ever conducting a physical exam, taking any vital signs or completing any medical charts at his clinic on Western Avenue in Rancho Palos Verdes, prosecutors said.

He faces up to 13 years, four months in local custody when he returns on Sept. 30 for sentencing in Department 71 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. He was immediately remanded after the verdict was read.

Case BA437315 was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.